

IN THE CLAIMS:

SUB C17

B1

1. (Amended) A method for classifying a document using a classification system comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of classes;

identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes;

generating a classification theme score for each of said classes from the source documents for each of the plurality of classes;

entering an unclassified document into the system;

generating an unclassified document theme score corresponding to said unclassified document; and

classifying the unclassified document into one of said plurality of classes when the unclassified document theme score is substantially equal to the classification theme score.

2. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of reviewing documents in each of said plurality of classes;

determining misclassified documents; and

assigning a theme score to the misclassified documents.

SUB C37

B2

6. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 5 wherein said step of forming a first and second subclass comprises identifying a selected group of related documents from said class.

7. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising reclassifying a plurality of classes into a plurality of new classes by:

identifying source documents for each of said plurality of new classes;

generating a respective plurality of new class theme scores for each of said plurality of new classes;

reclassifying documents within said plurality of classes into the plurality of new classes when a classified document theme score is substantially similar to one of respective new class theme scores.

B2 cont

8. (Amended) A classification system comprising:
establishing a plurality of classes and a plurality of subclasses;
identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes and said plurality of subclasses;
generating a classification theme score for each class and each subclass in response to the source documents;
entering an unclassified document into the system;
generating an unclassified theme score for the unclassified document; and
classifying the document into one of said plurality of classes when the unclassified document theme score is substantially equal to the classification theme score.

Sub C57

B3

11. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 10 wherein said predetermined section is one from the group of an abstract; an international classification; a U.S. classification, claims section and a title.

12. (Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising reclassifying a plurality of classes into a plurality of new classes by:
identifying source documents for each of said plurality of new classes;
generating respective new class theme scores;
reclassifying documents with said plurality of classes into the plurality of new classes when the classified document theme score is equal to one of the respective new class theme scores.

B3
Cont

13. (Amended) A system for classifying documents comprising:
a document input for entering an unclassified document;
a document storage memory;
a controller coupled to said document input and document storage memory said controller programmed to classify documents into a plurality of classes by identifying source documents of each of said plurality of classes, generating a classification theme score categorizing documents into said classes, and classifying the document into one of said plurality of classes when an unclassified document theme score is substantially similar to the classification theme score.

B4

SUB C17 16. (Amended) A system as recited in claim 13 wherein said controller is programmed to identify source documents for each of a plurality of new classes;
generate respective new classification theme scores; and
reclassify documents with said plurality of classes into the plurality of new classes when a document theme score is substantially similar to the new class theme score.
